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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 001521

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TAGS: [SENV](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [ENRG](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UN](#) [VE](#) [KGHG](#)
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA EXPECTED TO TAKE HARD LINE IN COPENHAGEN

CLASSIFIED BY: Steuart, Darnall, Economic Counselor, DOS, ECON;
REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

11. (C) SUMMARY: The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (GBRV)'s steadfast view that developed countries have caused climate change is expected to dominate its official position at the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference. Though the GBRV has not publicized an official stance, it is expected to align itself with the G77 group and more specifically with other Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) countries. This position will include support for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, an emphasis that each country be held responsible for its proportional culpability in climate change, and disapproval of clean development mechanisms (CDM). The GBRV is expected to be confrontational towards developed countries that it blames for the current climate change problem, especially the United States. END SUMMARY

CAPITALISM IS THE CAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

12. (C) The Ministry of Environment published remarks by its Management and International Cooperation Director, Claudia Salerno, on its webpage denouncing the capitalist-led development model and how it has directly led to climate change. Capitalism has had a direct and negative impact on the environment according to Salerno. Socialism, on the other hand, has an interest in protecting the environment due to its focus on the community's well-being.

ALIGNED WITH ALBA AND G77

13. (C) Aleidi Sangronis, Director of International Relations at the Ministry of Environment for the GBRV (protect), told Econoff that the GBRV will align itself with the G77 and ALBA countries. These groups attribute climate change to the industrialization of developed countries and feel that there should be financial consequences. Most claim, she said, that developed countries should have higher emission reduction targets and provide more

financial assistance. They also believe that a committee should be created in the United Nations to administer the Kyoto Protocol. Sangronis also emphasized that despite its support for the Kyoto Protocol, the GBRV would not accept any project with clean development mechanisms.

14. (C) COMMENT: The GBRV may use the Copenhagen convention to push its political agenda by attacking capitalist-led developed countries, especially the United States. It is probable that the GBRV will back any proposal to hold developed countries responsible for climate change. They will also likely push for further carbon emissions cuts and more financial assistance from developed countries.

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